

REMARKS

Claims 1, and 4-11 are pending. Claims 1, 4, 5-7, and 9 have been amended.
Claims 2 and 3 have been cancelled without prejudice.

In the November 14, 2006 Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,398,562 to Butler (hereinafter the Butler reference). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1, as amended, recites:

An apparatus for reverse iontophoresis configured such that it is contacted with a specimen comprising:

a base;

a conductive locating pin provided on the base;

an on-base electrode provided on the base;

an electrolytic gel provided on the on-base electrode adapted for contacting a first part of the specimen, and for extracting a molecule from the first part of the specimen;

a sensor chip disposed on the base and underneath the electrolytic gel, the sensor chip comprising a chip base having a locating hole, a pigment membrane disposed on the chip base and containing a pigment that changes a color by reaction with the molecule, and an on-chip electrode disposed over the locating hole and adapted for electrically connecting to the conductive locating pin through the locating hole and for contacting a second part of the specimen;

a light source irradiating light on the pigment membrane through an observation opening in the chip base; and

a light sensor receiving a reflection of the light from the pigment membrane through the observation opening in the chip base.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by the Butler reference.

The Butler reference does not disclose, teach, or suggest the apparatus specified in independent claim 1, as amended. Unlike the apparatus specified in independent claim 1, as amended, the Butler reference does not show "a **pigment membrane** disposed on the chip base and containing a pigment that changes color by reaction with the molecule, an on-chip electrode being disposed over the locating hole and adapted for electrically connecting to the conductive locating pin through the locating hole and for contacting a second part of the specimen; a **light source irradiating light** on the pigment membrane through an observation opening in the chip base; and a **light sensor** receiving a reflection of the light from the pigment membrane through the observation opening in the chip base."

Applicant respectfully submits that the Butler reference makes no mention whatsoever of a pigment membrane, a light source, or a light sensor.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1, as amended, distinguishes over the above-cited reference. Claims 4-8 depend directly from independent claim 1, as amended. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 4-8 distinguish over the above-cited reference for the same reasons as set forth above with respect to independent claim 1, as amended.

Applicant notes that amended independent claim 9 recites limitations similar to claim 1, as amended. Specifically, amended independent claim 9 recites "changing a

color of the pigment membrane by reacting the molecule with the pigment membrane; irradiating a light on the pigment membrane; and measuring a change in intensity of the light caused by the change in the color of the pigment membrane." Therefore, amended independent claim 9 also distinguishes over the above-cited reference for the same reasons as set forth above with respect to independent claim 1, as amended.

Claims 10 and 11 all depend directly from amended independent claim 9. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 10 and 11 distinguish over the above-cited reference for the same reasons as set forth above with respect to independent claims 1 and 9, as amended.

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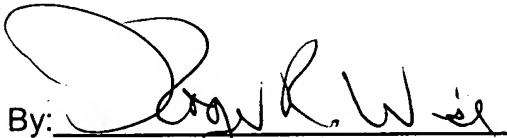
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Applicant believes that the foregoing amendment and remarks place the application in condition for allowance, and a favorable action is respectfully requested. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles telephone number (213) 488-7100 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance should the examiner believe that such a telephone conference would advance prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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